

## Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program

Action: The staff recommends that the council award federal *No Child Left Behind*, Title II, Part A funds in the amount of \$1,082,500 for April 1, 2003 - July 31, 2004, to support four projects.

The Improving Educator Quality State Grant Program replaces the Dwight D. Eisenhower Higher Education Grant Program, which funded professional development workshops for K-12 math and science teachers. The new program gives states increased flexibility to fund research-based training for teachers and administrators in content areas other than math and science. In return, states must demonstrate that program activities result in measurable improvements in student achievement.

The council staff, with input from the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, and the state P-16 Council, established four priorities for IEQ funds: mathematics and science, reading, school leadership, and foreign language. Additionally, they encouraged institutions to form more extensive partnerships across traditional service area boundaries to reach teachers in schools with significant achievement gaps.

Content-area specialists reviewed the 13 grant proposals received and made recommendations to the council staff. Four proposals were selected. Brief descriptions of these projects follow.

### **Eastern Kentucky University: \$300,000**

#### ***Using High Quality and Award-Winning Literature to Support Reading Comprehension in Mathematics and Science***

**Sara Delano Moore and William P. Bintz**

Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and Paducah/West Kentucky Community and Technical College will deliver professional development to mathematics and science teachers in grades four through eight in Pulaski, McCracken, and Rowan counties, as well as in GEAR UP Kentucky schools across the state. A total of 80 teachers and 90 instructional leaders and library and media specialists will be trained to develop and implement hands-on instructional units that use award-winning literature to improve students' reading comprehension of math and science concepts.

**Murray State University: \$300,000**

***Modeling Watershed Studies Across the Commonwealth of Kentucky***  
**Joseph Baust**

Murray State University, along with Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Northern Kentucky University, Western Kentucky University, and Campbellsville University, will train 135 teachers to use the environment, specifically local watersheds, as an integrating context for hands-on, real-world math and science instruction. In addition to five summer workshops, teachers will receive ongoing resources and support to ensure successful implementation of instructional strategies during the school year.

**Northern Kentucky University: \$228,500**

***Planting Seeds, Cultivating Clusters: Strengthening Middle Grade Mathematics and Science in Northern Kentucky***  
**Linda Sheffield**

Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More College, the Northern Kentucky Educational Cooperative, and the P-16 Council of Partners will train 18 lead teachers in middle school math and science who then will work with 124 teachers in 21 high-need districts in Kenton, Campbell, and Pendleton counties. Lead teachers will receive intensive summer training on the Japanese model of in-depth study of mathematics and science in order to facilitate teacher study groups in local schools. Additionally, 21 principals, administrators, site-based council members, parents, and counselors will receive training to become stronger instructional leaders and to support and evaluate the high-level mathematics and science teaching occurring in their schools.

**University of Louisville: \$254,000**

***A Multidisciplinary Literacy Approach to Closing the Achievement Gap for Urban Middle School Students***  
**Ann Larson and Linda Irwin-Devitis**

The University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky will train 45 lead middle school teachers who will train an additional 105 teachers in Jefferson and Fayette counties to use consistent strategies for improving reading and writing across the curriculum. Summer institutes, teacher sharing sessions, and faculty demonstrations will target teachers of students who lag behind their peers in an effort to close the achievement gap. The themes of popular culture and the media will be used to develop analytical and critical thinking skills in underachieving students.